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It is not improbable that the same interrogative particle **אֵל** is to be found in the emphasizing **אֵלֵךְ** "indeed, surely," which is perhaps a combination of **אֵל** with **כֹּ** "like, as, so," the original meaning being "is it so that."¹ This passes, through the medium of the rhetorical question, to the meaning "surely, indeed," and then passes from an intensive to an exclusive meaning, viz., "only."²

Whether **אֵל** "also" is to be considered as compounded of interrogative **אֵל** + a particle **א** = Arab. **أ**, the emphatic meaning being derived from the interrogative as in the case of **אֵלֵךְ**, while not impossible, is rendered problematical by Syriac **ܐܠ** with *ā*.

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THE DUAL ENDING *-aim* IN THE HEBREW MULTIPLICATIVE NUMERALS

The Hebrew dual ending *-aim* is apparently used in a number of passages as a multiplicative numeral ending with the meaning of "times, -fold." The numerals which appear with this ending are:

שְׁנַיִם "two-fold" (Exod. 22:3, 6, 8).

אַרְבַּעַתַּיִם "four times as much" (II Sam. 12:6).³

שִׁבְעַתַּיִם "seven times, seven-fold" (Gen. 4:15, 24; II Sam. 21:9; Isa. 30:26; Ps. 12:7; 79:12; Prov. 6:31).

רִבְוֹתַיִם "ten-thousand-fold" (Ps. 68:18).

There is, of course, no intrinsic multiplicative idea in the dual ending, no reason why "two fours" should mean "four-fold"; the origin of this suffix is to be looked for in another direction.

Now in the case of the numerals, modifications of form due to analogy with neighboring or related numerals are especially frequent.⁴ For example **חֲמִשָּׁה**, **חֲמִשִּׁים** "five," "fifty," are changed from ***חֲמִשָּׁה**, ***חֲמִשִּׁים** under the influence of **שִׁשָּׁה**, **שִׁשִּׁים** "six," "sixty"; **עֶשְׂרִים** "twenty" is changed from ***עֶשְׂרִים** "two tens" under the influence of the other tens **שְׁלֹשִׁים**, **אַרְבָּעִים** "thirty," "forty," etc. So it is by no means impossible that the suffix *-aim* is developed in a similar way as the result of some analogy.

¹ For the use of rhetorical questions without a negative to express a strong affirmative, cf. Gesenius-Kautzsch, *Heb. Gram.*²⁸, p. 497, § 150e.

² Cf. Gesenius-Buhl, *Heb. Handwörterbuch*¹³, p. 37.

³ This is apparently substituted by a later redactor for **שִׁבְעַתַּיִם** (which form underlies the LXX) in order to conform this passage to Exod. 21:37, but if so, it represents nevertheless the usage of one well versed in Hebrew, probably with a native command of the language.

⁴ Cf. my article "Hebrew **חֲמִשָּׁה**, **חֲמִשִּׁים**," *JAOS*, XXVI (1905), 117-19, and literature there cited; also Brockelmann, *Syrische Grammatik*, Berlin, 1899, p. 56, § 166 anm.

⁵ Cf. Brockelmann, *Grundriss d. vergl. Gram. d. semitischen Sprachen*, Vol. I, p. 490e.

The source of this suffix *-aim* seems to be the ordinary dual ending in שְׁנַיִם "double, twofold,"¹ where *-aim* has its proper meaning. The multiplicative idea in this form lies, not in the ending, but in the numeral itself, the cardinal being used as an adverb, as nouns not infrequently are in Hebrew.² So originally the other cardinals were no doubt used as multiplicative adverbs, probably in the form which is used with masculine nouns, as seems to be shown by—

שִׁבְעִים וְשִׁבְעָה "seventy-seven-fold" (Gen. 4:24).³

The ending *-aim* of the forms meaning "twofold, double," came in the course of time to be associated directly with the multiplicative idea, and was regarded by the users of the language as the seat of that idea. Hence under the influence of this feeling the ending *-aim* was added to the other cardinal numerals, forming from שְׁלֹשָׁה, אַרְבָּעָה, שִׁבְעָה, etc., שְׁלֹשָׁתַיִם, אַרְבַּעַתַיִם, שִׁבְעַתַיִם, etc. The fact that only a few forms of this series occur in the Old Testament (cf. beginning of article) is doubtless merely the result of accident, due to the limited extent of Hebrew literature, and the comparative scarcity of multiplicative expressions meaning "so many fold" in those portions which have been preserved.

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A CORRECTION

My review of the fifteenth edition of Gesenius-Buhl's *Hebräisches und aramäisches Handwörterbuch* in the last number of this *Journal* (October, 1916, pp. 51-70) contained a serious error. On p. 66, below the middle, is said: "In the treatment of the preposition לְ, no mention is made of its use as the particle of *nearer designation*, 'namely,' etc."

I now see, however, that I had somehow managed to overlook the paragraph 8, b (p. 372 A), where precisely this use is noted, with a sufficient number of examples. I regret that my carelessness should have led me to make this misstatement.

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¹ Probably כְּפָלִים "double" (cf. Isa. 40:2), helped to establish *-aim* as a suffix meaning "-fold." The meaning "manifold," which, if the text is correct, כְּפָלִים seems to have in Job 11:6, may be regarded as a secondary development of this special word, viz., doubled > folded > folded several times > manifold. It is not impossible, however, that this may be an instance of the use of *-aim* in the sense of "-fold" after it had acquired that meaning by the analogy described in the text.

² Cf. Gesenius-Kautzsch *Heb. Gram.*²⁸, p. 305.

³ Cf. also the use of the same form in the multiplicative numerals in Aramaic, e.g., חַד שִׁבְעָה "seven-fold, seven times."